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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

DEC 18 1991

SUBJECT: Approval of a Funding Request
ABEX Corporation Site
Portsmouth, Virginia

FROM: Edwin B. Erickson *Edwin B. Erickson*
Regional Administrator (3BA00)

TO: Donald R. Clay, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OS-100)

THRU: Henry L. Longest, II, Director
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OS-200)

ATTN: Stephen D. Luftig, Director
Emergency Response Division (OS-210)

ISSUE

The attached CERCLA Funding Request pertains to the ABEX Corporation Site in Portsmouth, Virginia. The ABEX Corporation was operated as a brass and bronze foundry, fabricating railroad car parts for approximately 50 years. The Site comprises an abandoned facility and the surrounding residential area.

An assessment performed in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) by my staff and Commonwealth of Virginia personnel has identified a threat to human health and the environment due to the presence of uncontrolled hazardous materials. Residential yards and the Effingham Playground, located within 20 feet of the facility, the only recreational area in the vicinity, contain surface soil contaminated with lead. Several vacant lots to the east of the facility also contain surface soil contaminated with lead.

The OSC considers it appropriate to address the situation regarding the residential yards and the playground area immediately, as young children spend a considerable amount of time there during the day. Surface soil sampling will also be conducted in additional residential yards and the vacant lots to the east of the facility to determine if it is appropriate to remediate additional areas at the Site.

AR100021

Because conditions at the ABEX Corporation Site meet removal criteria set forth in the NCP Section 300.415 and pursuant to Delegation of Authority 14-1-A giving the Regional Administrator authority to approve CERCLA Removal Action with a total cost of less than \$2 million and completion within 12 months, I have approved a ceiling request of \$1,965,000 for the Removal Action of which approximately \$1,350,000 is the Regional Allowance Cost.

Attachment: Funding Request

AR100022